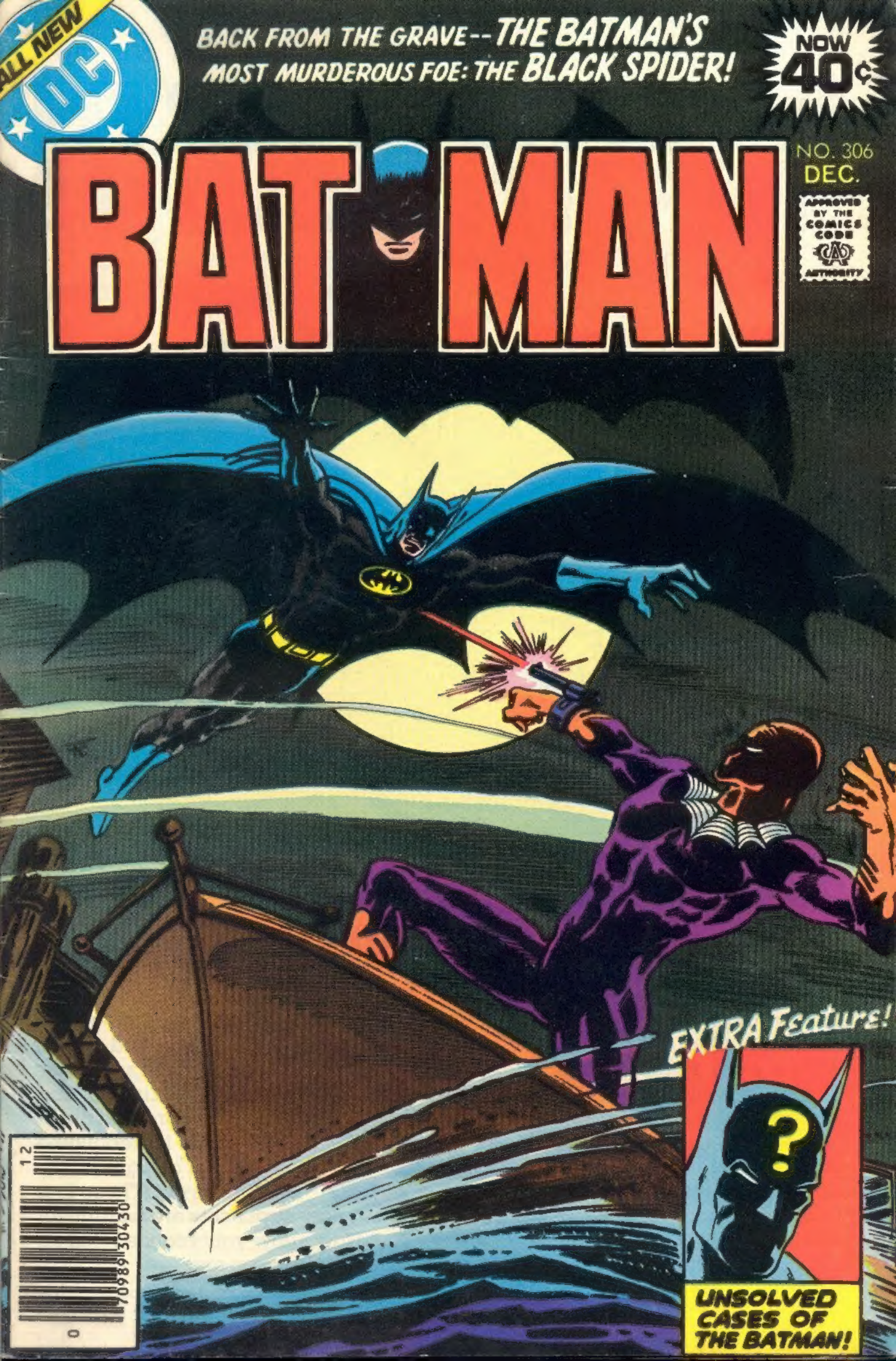
ALL NEW
DC
BACK FROM THE GRAVE-- THE BATMAN'S MOST MURDEROUS FOE: THE BLACK SPIDER!
NOW 40¢
BAT MAN
NO. 306
DEC.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
EXTRA Feature!
UNSOLVED CASES OF THE BATMAN!
12
0 70989 30430

MOVE IT! STEER IT! SHIFT IT! BUILD IT!

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ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
THE BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
PIER 36 AT THE GOTHAM CITY MARINA: OFFICIALLY, THE MARINA IS CLOSED AT SUNSET, BUT UNOFFICIALLY, IT'S FAR FROM DESERTED...
IN HIS SHACK AT THE MAIN GATE, THE NIGHT WATCHMAN LIES UNCONSCIOUS, A PURPLE BRUISE ALREADY DARKENING HIS FOREHEAD AND HERE, AT A PRIVATE PIER, THREE MEN BUSILY UNLOAD AN IDLING MOTORBOAT...
NIGHT OF SIEGE
THEY TALK IN WHISPERS, AS THOUGH AFRAID TO BE OVERHEARD, UNTIL SUDDENLY--
BERT, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE GOING TO DROP THAT BOX!
BERT! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID--
B-B-B-
WRITER GERRY CONWAY
ARTISTS JOHN CALNAN & DAVID HUNT
LETTERER BEN ODA
COLORIST JERRY SERPE
EDITOR JULIUS SCHWARTZ
S-2974

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737.

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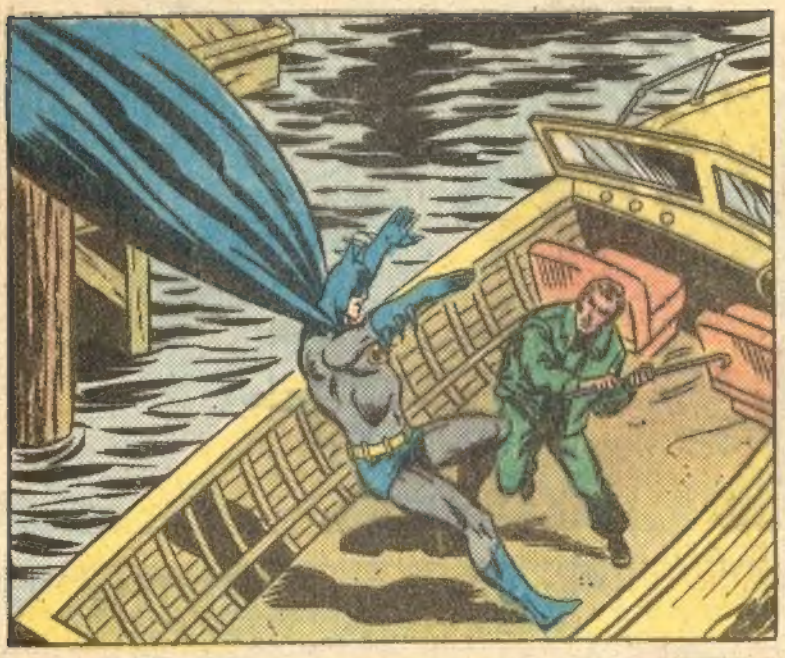
B-B-BATMAN!
NO!

WOOOOOHHHH

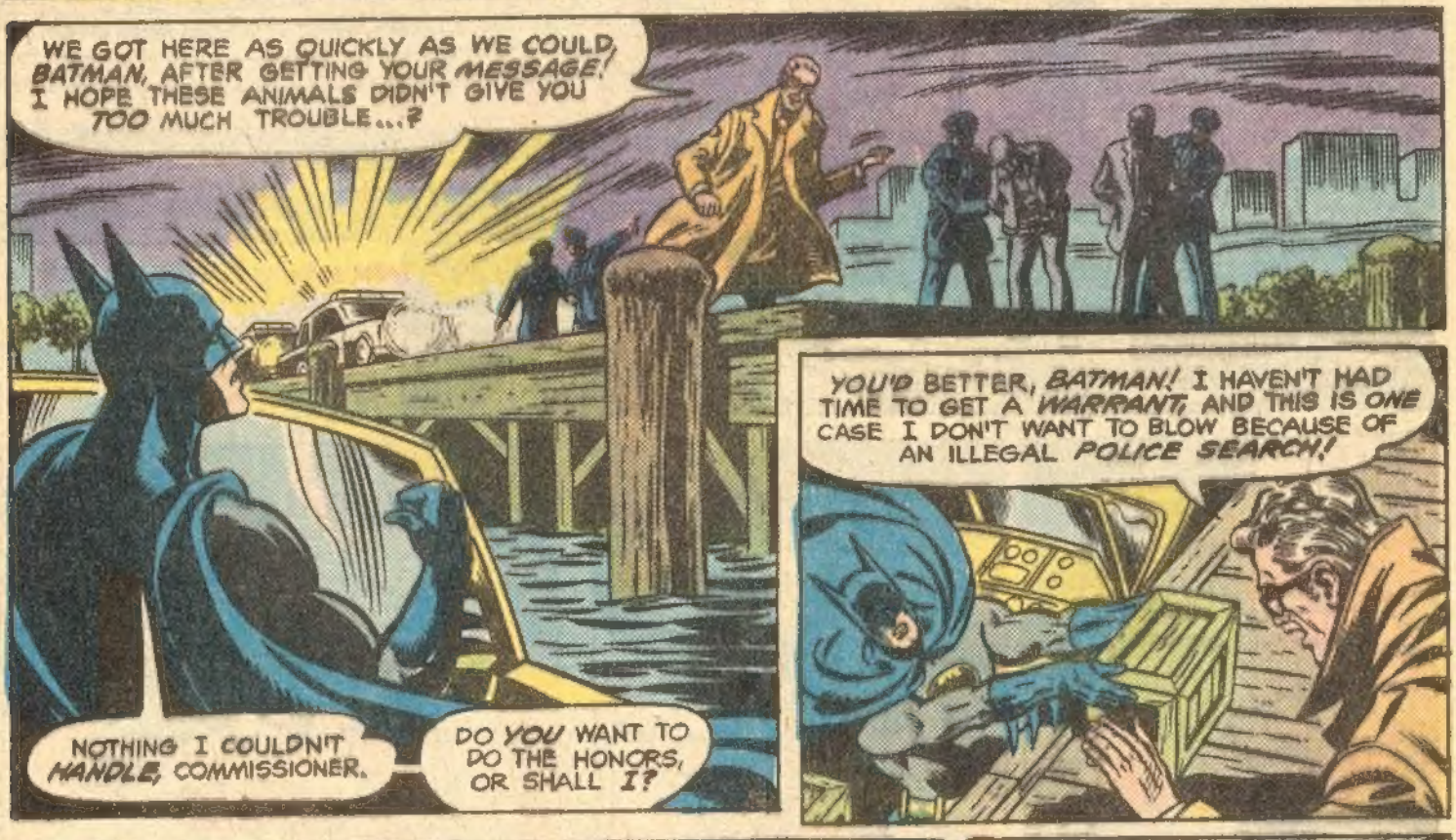
KRAK

ZZZZAAAAROOOM

2



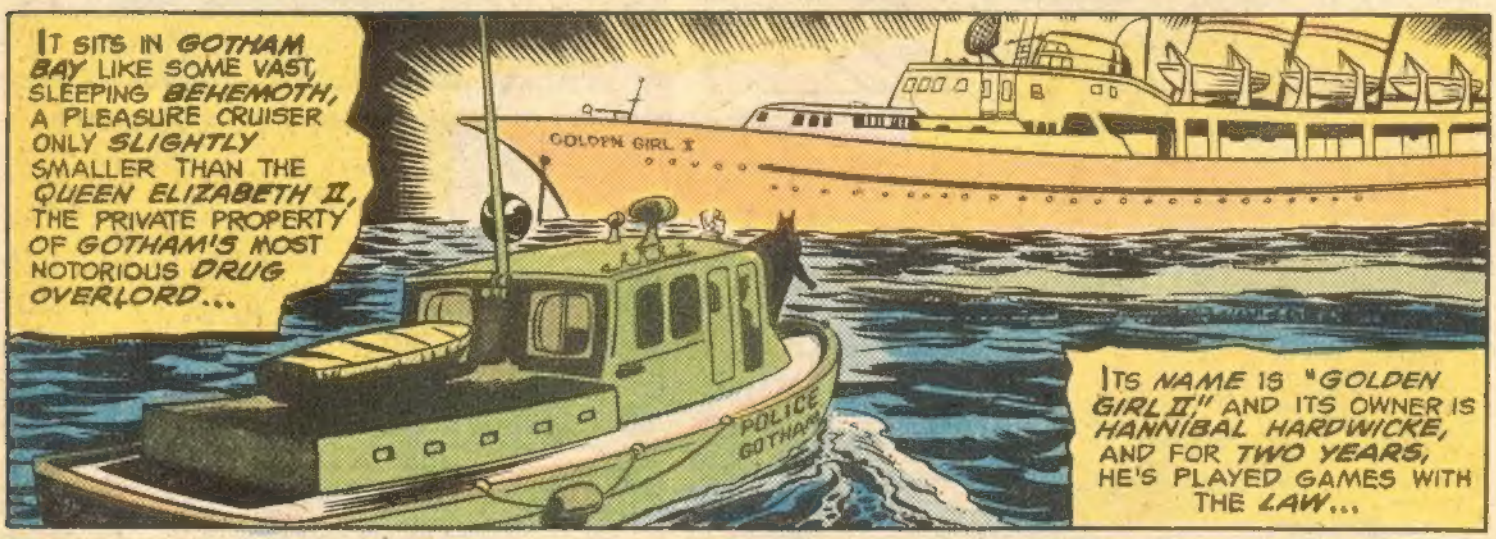
WOOSH
OK


WE GOT HERE AS QUICKLY AS WE COULD, BATMAN, AFTER GETTING YOUR MESSAGE! I HOPE THESE ANIMALS DIDN'T GIVE YOU TOO MUCH TROUBLE...?
NOTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE, COMMISSIONER.
DO YOU WANT TO DO THE HONORS, OR SHALL I?
YOU'D BETTER, BATMAN! I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO GET A WARRANT, AND THIS IS ONE CASE I DON'T WANT TO BLOW BECAUSE OF AN ILLEGAL POLICE SEARCH!

KKRREEAK

MY INFORMANT DIDN'T LIE! WE'LL NEED A LAB ANALYSIS TO BE SURE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE STUMBLED ONTO THE GOTHAM PIPELINE!
HORSE, COMMISSIONER! A KILO OF HIGH-GRADE HEROIN, PART OF A SHIPMENT OF FIFTY POUNDS!

STREET VALUE-- IN THE HUNDRED MILLIONS!


IT SITS IN GOTHAM BAY LIKE SOME VAST, SLEEPING BEHEMOTH, A PLEASURE CRUISER ONLY SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II, THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF GOTHAM'S MOST NOTORIOUS DRUG OVERLORD...
GOLDEN GIRL II
POLICE GOTHAM
ITS NAME IS "GOLDEN GIRL II" AND ITS OWNER IS HANNIBAL HARDWICKE, AND FOR TWO YEARS, HE'S PLAYED GAMES WITH THE LAW...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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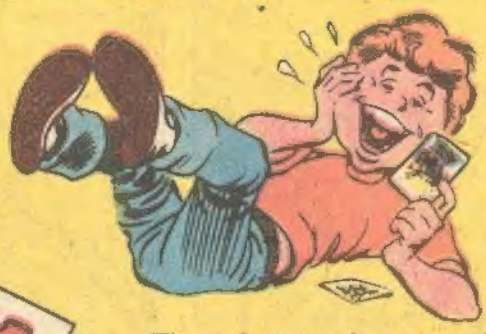

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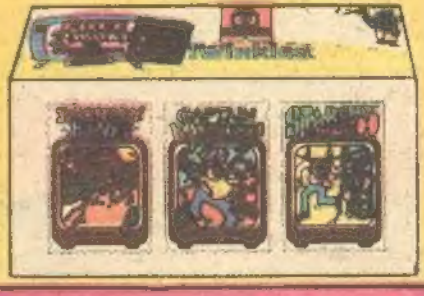

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GREETINGS, BATMAN! I ASSUME THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL?
YOU'VE POISONED YOUR LAST JUNKIE, HARDWICKE! THERE ISN'T A LAWYER ALIVE WHO CAN SAVE YOU NOW! GET YOUR COAT!..
HARDWICKE... YOU'RE FINISHED!
WE'VE CAUGHT YOUR MEN ...IMPOUNDED YOUR BOAT... AND CONFISCATED YOUR HEROIN!
...YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL!
SORRY, BATMAN, BUT HARDWICKE CAN'T MAKE IT! HE'S GOT A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT--
--IN HELL!
BLACK SPIDER?! BUT YOU WERE REPORTED DEAD! *
LIKE THE MAN SAID, BATMAN, THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH--
WHACKK
* THE WEBBED VIGILANTE "DIED" IN DETECTIVE COMICS #464! --JULIE
5

--OBVIOUSLY WEREN'T TRUE!
MERCIFUL MOTHER--THE MADMAN'S TRYING TO KILL ME! BATMAN--
--DO SOMETHING!
BLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLA
BUT THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE IS ALREADY IN MOTION--
PLOK
--AND IN EERIE SILENCE, HE PLUNGES THE CABIN INTO SHADOW--
--BLINDING BOTH WOULD-BE KILLER AND INTENDED VICTIM!
SMART, DETECTIVE! BUT I DON'T HAVE TO SEE TO STRAFE THIS CABIN--AND IF I'VE GOTTA KILL YOU TO WASTE HIM--
--THAT'S JUST TOO DAMNED BAD!
LIKE A MACHINE GUN, THE BLACK SPIDER'S AUTOMATIC RIFLE SPRAYS THE PLUSH CABIN WITH LEAD... BUT, WHEN THE BARRAGE IS ENDED, AND THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE FINDS THE WALL-SWITCH FOR THE OVERHEAD LIGHT-PANELS--
GONE? BOTH OF THEM?
BUT WHERE--?
CLIK
VROOM
THE POLICE LAUNCH--THE ONE THAT BROUGHT THE BATMAN ABOARD!
THEN HARDWICKE'S SLIPPED AWAY! HE'S STILL FREE, STILL ALIVE!
BUT I SWEAR IT... NOT FOR LONG!
6

SOON, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
...I'M SORRY, BATMAN, BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN KEEP HARDWICKE HERE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, NOT EVEN OVERNIGHT.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS, COMMISSIONER! WHAT MAKES YOU SAY--
IT'S THE MAYOR WHO SAYS THERE'LL BE NO "HIGH NOON" SHOWDOWN HERE OR AT THE MEN'S HOUSE OF DETENTION--
--AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'LL HAVE, IF THIS NUT-CASE SPIDER CHARACTER TRACKS HARDWICKE DOWN!
APPARENTLY BLACK SPIDER HAS IT IN FOR OUR FRIEND HERE--EVEN MORE THAN FOR THE USUAL DRUG-DEALER. HE KNOWS HARDWICKE IS THE TOP MAN...
...AND HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO SEE HIM DEAD--
--EVEN ATTACK THE ENTIRE GOTHAM POLICE FORCE!
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING, GENTLEMEN, I REALIZE I'M ONLY THE LOWLY ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BUT WHO...OR WHAT... IS A BLACK SPIDER?
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW, GELMAN. YOU WERE STILL AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL WHEN THE SPIDER STARTED HIS ONE-MAN WAR ON THE DRUG-PUSHERS...
"HE WAS AN EX-JUNKIE WITH AN INSANE, CONSUMING HATRED FOR THE HUMAN MONSTERS WHO'D RUINED HIS LIFE..."
TRABOOM
"SOMEHOW, HE GOT WEAPONS, A COSTUME, A NAME, AND SET OUT OUT TO KILL OFF THE BIGGEST DEALERS IN GOTHAM..."
KRAK
"IT ENDED WHEN A BOMB HE PLANNED TO USE ON A PUSHER WENT OFF IN HIS FACE, KILLING HIM... OR SO WE THOUGHT!" *
AAARROOM
*TOLD FULLY IN DETECTIVE COMICS #463 AND #464! --JULIE
7

BUT NO--HE DIDN'T DIE! NO--THE BODY WAS NEVER RECOVERED!
SO WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? A DRUG-DEALING MASTERMIND WE DON'T DARE SLAP IN JAIL, AND A CRAZED VIGILANTE WHO WANTS TO WASTE HIM!
OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE ONLY ONE SOLUTION. I'M PUTTING HARDWICKE IN YOUR CUSTODY, BATMAN. KEEP HIM ALIVE UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING.
AFTER THE ARRAIGNMENT, WE CAN TRANSFER HIM TO THE STATE PENITENTIARY, BUT UNTIL 9 A.M.--
--THE PROBLEM, BATMAN, IS YOURS!
EIGHTEEN MINUTES LATER, ON THE STREET OUTSIDE...
THEY'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HARDWICKE WITH BATMAN... THEY'VE NO OTHER CHOICE! THE TWO OF THEM SHOULD BE COMING OUT ANY MOMENT NOW...
...AND THEY'LL BE RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS!
THERE! GOT HIM--
"--JUST LIKE A BULL'S-EYE!"
KTOW KTOW
NO!
8

DEBT PAID, CASE CLOSED! IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT CREEP, BUT NOW I'VE FINALLY--
HUH? SOMETHING'S WRONG!
"I PUT A SLUG RIGHT THROUGH HARDWICKE'S HEART, KNOCKED HIM BACK MAYBE TEN FEET--"
"--BUT THERE'S NO BLOOD!"
I'VE BEEN TRICKED!
KRAN
MEANWHILE, BEHIND THAT SAME BUILDING...
--THAT'S IT, BATMAN! MY MEN OUT FRONT SAY THE BAIT'S BEEN TAKEN! YOUR EXTRA UNIFORM AND HARDWICKE'S CLOTHES DID THE JOB.
IF SGT. FINLEY HADN'T BEEN WEARING A FLAK JACKET UNDER HARDWICKE'S VEST, GOTHAM WOULD HAVE LOST ONE OF HER FINEST!
PREPARATION, COMMISSIONER. THAT'S THE KEY--
--THE MAIN REASON I'M STILL ALIVE TODAY!
KEEP THE BATMOBILE SAFE FOR ME, COMMISSIONER.
BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHERE CAN YOU HIDE?
THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW -- AND BLACK SPIDER TO FIND OUT!
GOOD LUCK, OLD FRIEND. YOU MAY NEED IT!
9
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

IT'S FUN
for every one!
NO SUGAR TO HARM YOUR TEETH!
OK WITH MOMS OF THE WORLD!
Soft, Juicy Chunks!
GREAT TASTE
Amazing BUBBLES— 4 Long-Lasting FLAVORS!
BLAMMO
Soft 'n Sugarfree
Bubble Gum
Ask your Mom to buy the money-saving box.
You can buy chunks one-at-a-time.
BLAMMO®
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BUBBLE GUM

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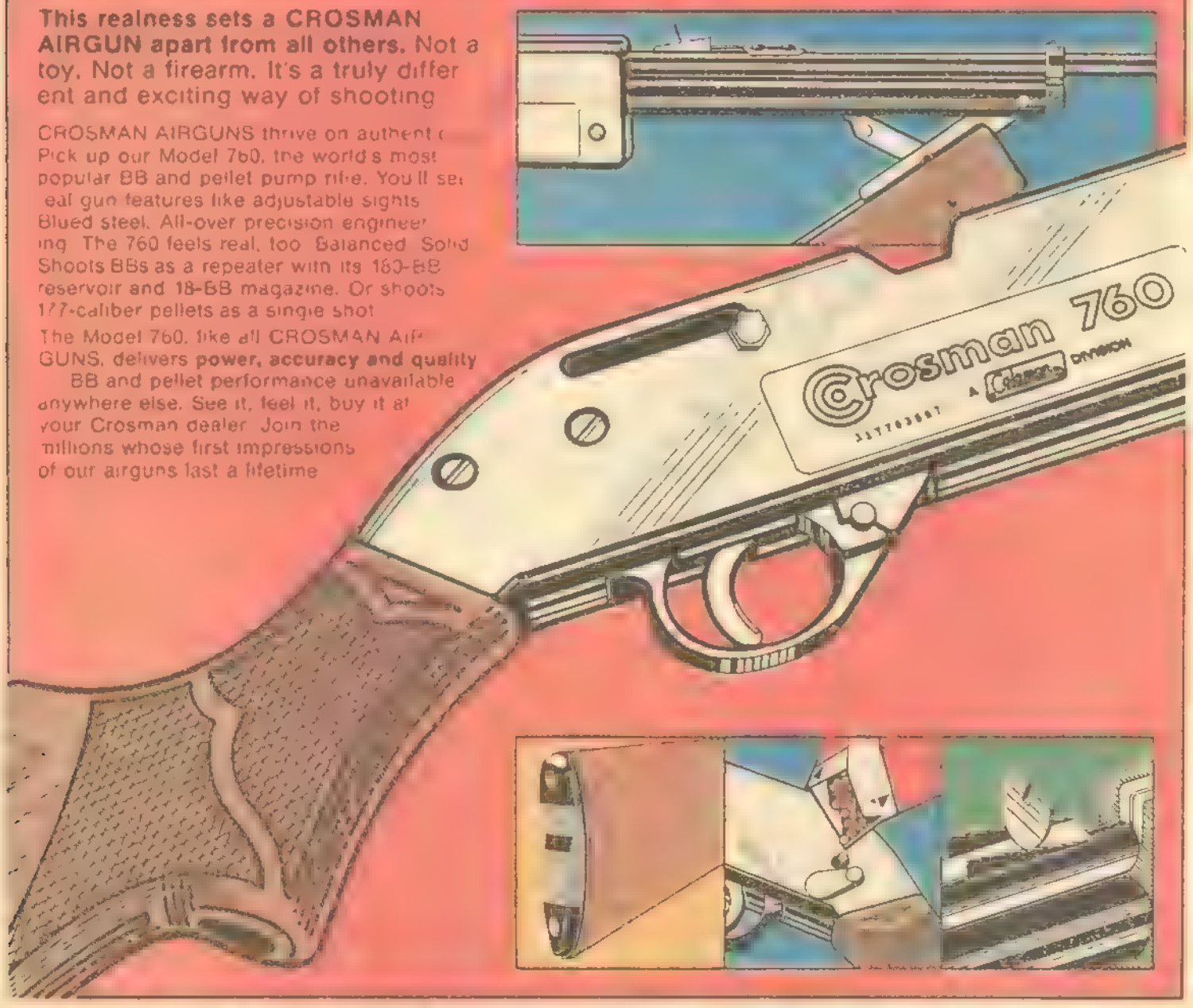
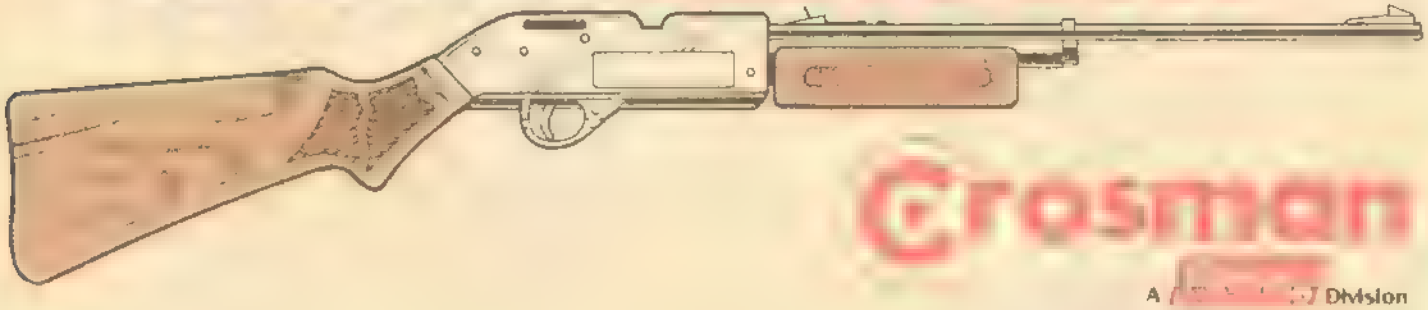


PICK UP A CROSMAN. YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT'S AN AIRGUN!



Crosman

A Coleman Division
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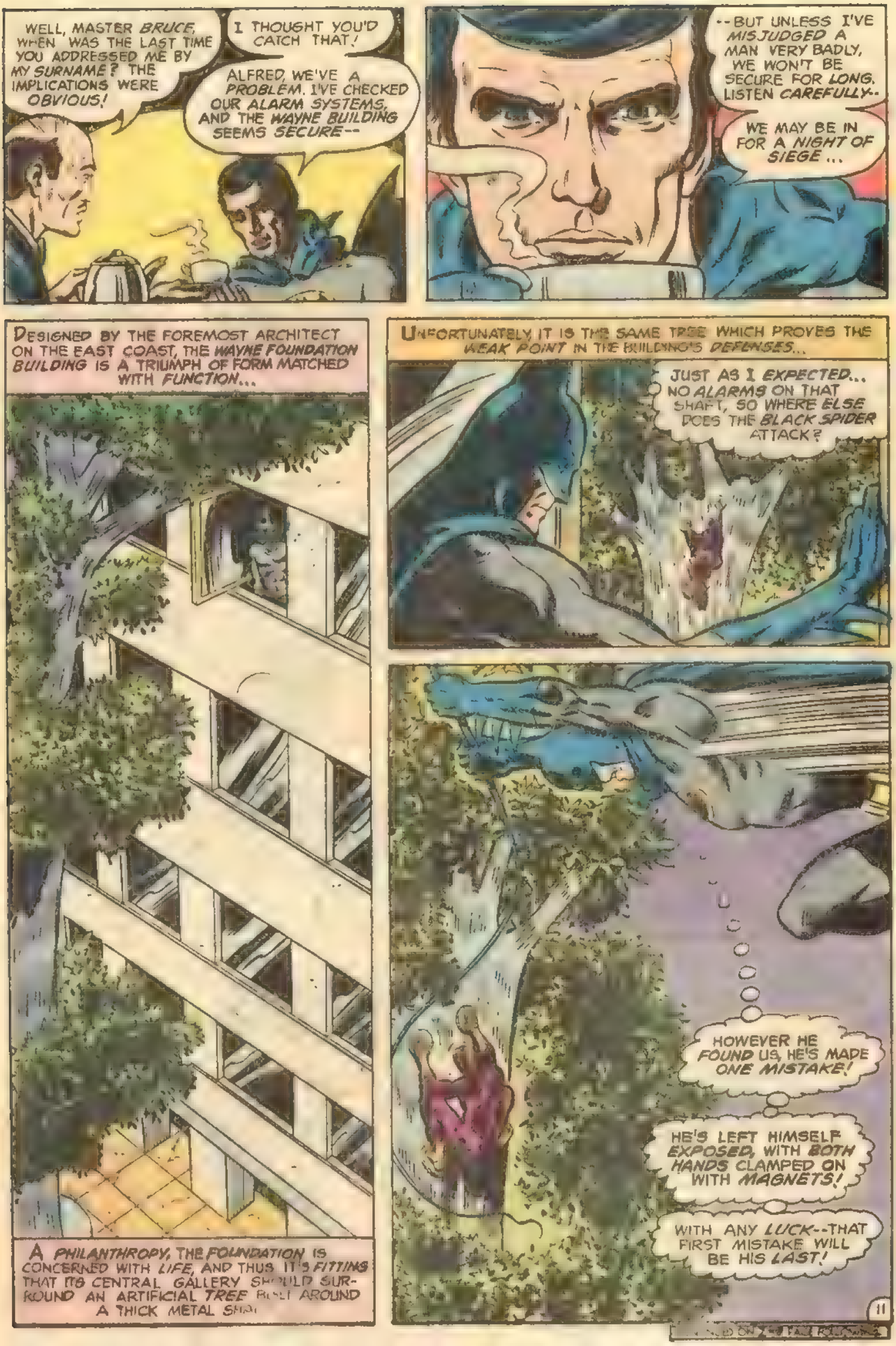
EVEN IN METROPOLITAN GOTHAM CITY, THERE ARE BACK ROADS AND LITTLE-USED STREETS, AND THE BATMAN KNOWS EVERY ONE...
HE USES THEM ALL DURING THE NEXT HOUR, SHAKING ANY POSSIBLE TRACKER, AND THEN HE SPEEDS NORTH, ARRIVING AT A MOST UNLIKELY DESTINATION--
--THE WAYNE FOUNDATION?
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SENSES, BATMAN? WHAT SORT OF A "HIDEOUT" IS THIS--
--ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN BUILDINGS IN GOTHAM CITY!
EXACTLY, HARDWICKE! IT ALSO BELONGS TO A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, BRUCE WAYNE! HE HAPPENS TO BE OUT OF TOWN AT THE MOMENT--
--SO I'M SURE HE WON'T MIND IF WE USE HIS PENTHOUSE FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS.
AH...HERE'S WAYNE'S BUTLER! GOOD EVENING, PENNYWORTH.
ER--GOOD EVENING, SIR. CAN I BE OF ASSISTANCE?
THIS GENTLEMAN IS HANNIBAL HARDWICKE ...AND HE LOOKS LIKE HE COULD USE A CUP OF TEA. GET HIM SETTLED, WILL YOU?
THEN WE'LL TALK.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
AND SO, A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN A ROOM QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS IN THE SPRAWLING PENTHOUSE...
MR. HARDWICKE IS RESTING IN THE GUEST BEDROOM, SIR.
YOU PICKED UP ON THE SITUATION VERY QUICKLY OUT THERE, ALFRED. CONGRATULATIONS!


WELL, MASTER BRUCE, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ADDRESSED ME BY MY SURNAME? THE IMPLICATIONS WERE OBVIOUS!
I THOUGHT YOU'D CATCH THAT.
ALFRED, WE'VE A PROBLEM. I'VE CHECKED OUR ALARM SYSTEMS, AND THE WAYNE BUILDING SEEMS SECURE--
--BUT UNLESS I'VE MISJUDGED A MAN VERY BADLY, WE WON'T BE SECURE FOR LONG. LISTEN CAREFULLY--
WE MAY BE IN FOR A NIGHT OF SIEGE ...
DESIGNED BY THE FOREMOST ARCHITECT ON THE EAST COAST, THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING IS A TRIUMPH OF FORM MATCHED WITH FUNCTION...
A PHILANTHROPY, THE FOUNDATION IS CONCERNED WITH LIFE, AND THUS IT'S FITTING THAT ITS CENTRAL GALLERY SHOULD SURROUND AN ARTIFICIAL TREE BUILT AROUND A THICK METAL SHAFT
UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS THIS SAME TREE WHICH PROVES THE WEAK POINT IN THE BUILDING'S DEFENSES...
JUST AS I EXPECTED... NO ALARMS ON THAT SHAFT, SO WHERE ELSE DOES THE BLACK SPIDER ATTACK?
HOWEVER HE FOUND US, HE'S MADE ONE MISTAKE!
HE'S LEFT HIMSELF EXPOSED, WITH BOTH HANDS CLAMPED ON WITH MAGNETS!
WITH ANY LUCK--THAT FIRST MISTAKE WILL BE HIS LAST!

"WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE, DO IT IN STYLE."

"You'll move better, and look better in my classy TD's.™"

New Converse field sports shoes, for football, baseball, soccer or any sport you play on grass. They are called TD's, after you-know-who.

TD's were made the way Tony Dorsett wanted them made. For strength, comfort, and classy looks.

"When you have to make time, or turn on a dime, you'll really shine in these shoes of mine."

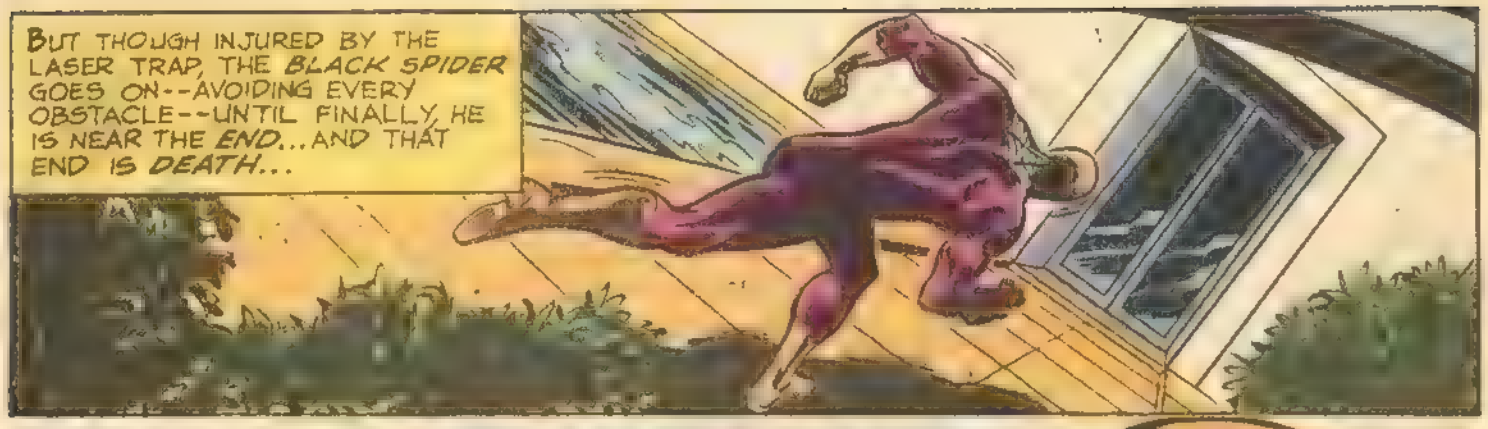
Tony Dorsett

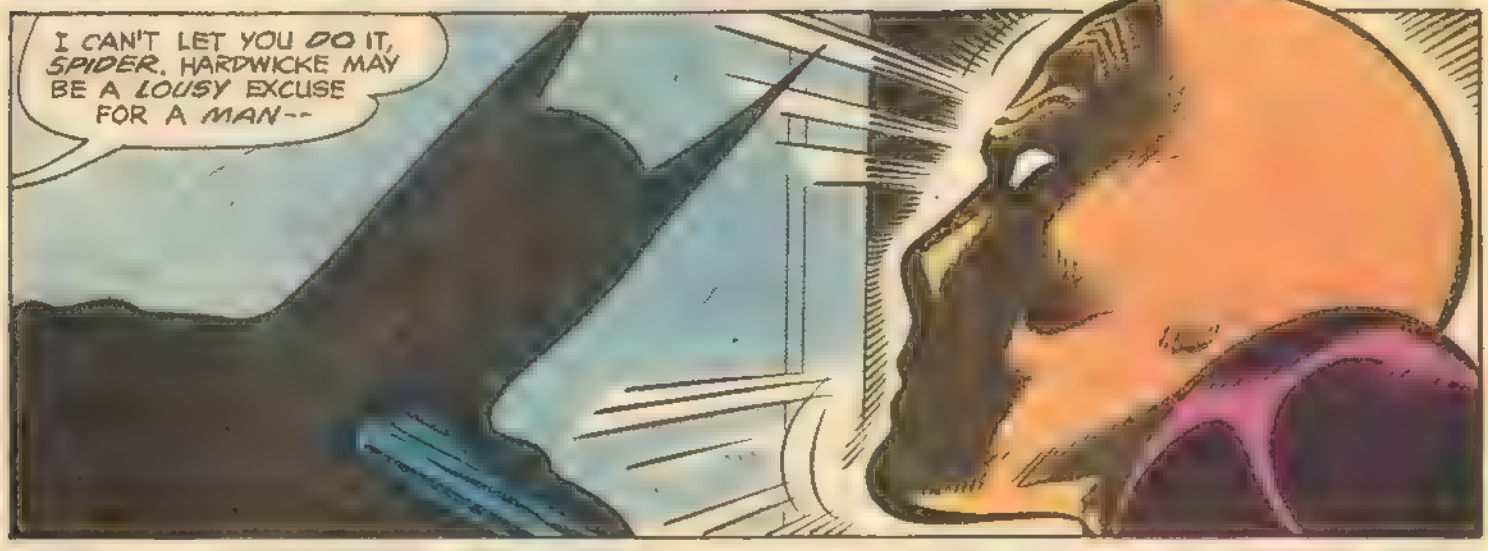
When you buy a pair of TD's, you're eligible for a special offer on a Tony Dorsett T-Shirt. For details, look for the Tony Dorsett display at your store.

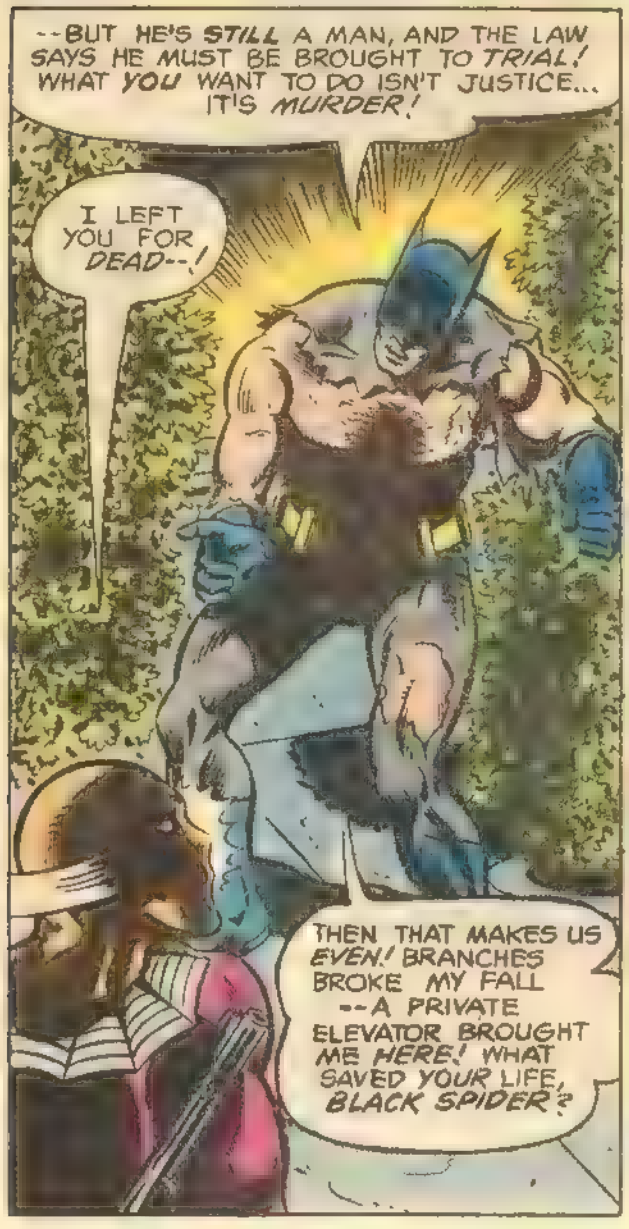
DON'T WAIT! MAKE YOUR TD's MOVE TODAY!

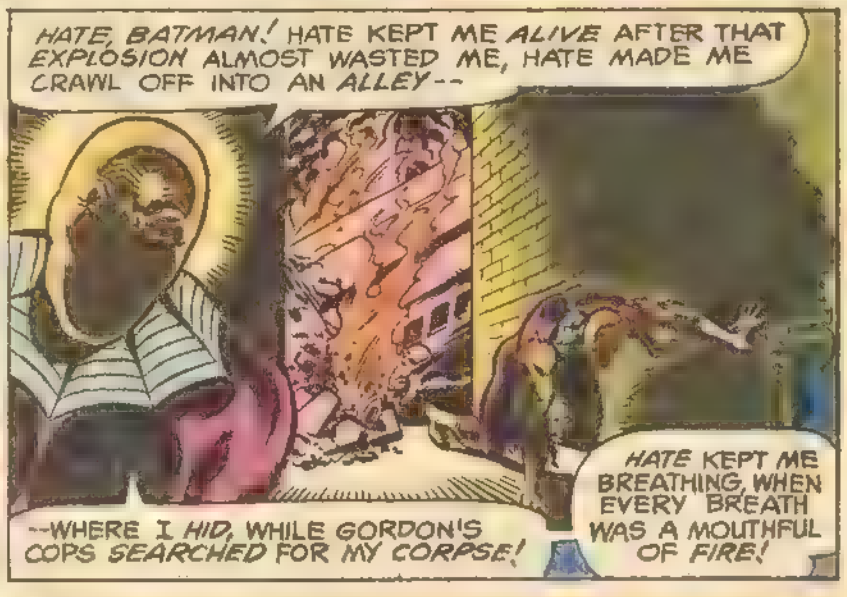
CONVERSE
THE SHOES OF THE STARS

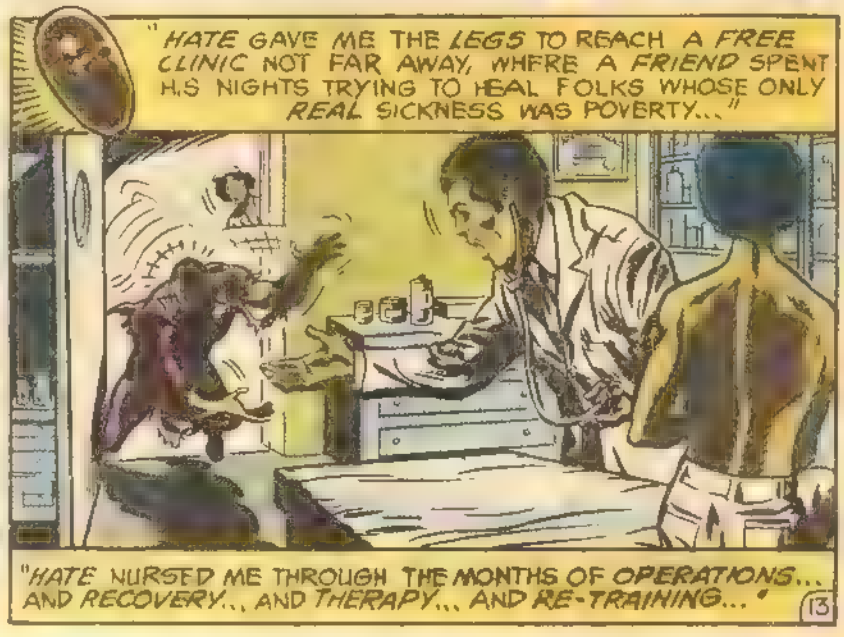
WHAT--? MAGNETS ON HIS FEET--?
PHWISHH
MY BACK--!
AARRHH
KTHOOOOOM
NICE TRY, DETECTIVE, BUT HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT I PLACED A HOMING DEVICE ON YOUR CAPE, WHICH I SAW YOU IN HARDWICKE'S CABIN--
--BEFORE I SPOKE UP AND CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION?!
I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT COME A TIME WHEN I'D NEED TO TRACK YOU, SINCE YOU DON'T APPROVE OF THE WAY I PAY OFF PUSHERS!
NOW YOU'RE DEAD... AND I'M SORRY, DETECTIVE...
--BUT WHEN YOU GET IN A SPIDER'S WAY, YOU'RE BOUND TO GET STUNG!
BLLLMM
YAAAHH
12


BUT THOUGH INJURED BY THE LASER TRAP, THE BLACK SPIDER GOES ON--AVOIDING EVERY OBSTACLE--UNTIL FINALLY, HE IS NEAR THE END... AND THAT END IS DEATH...

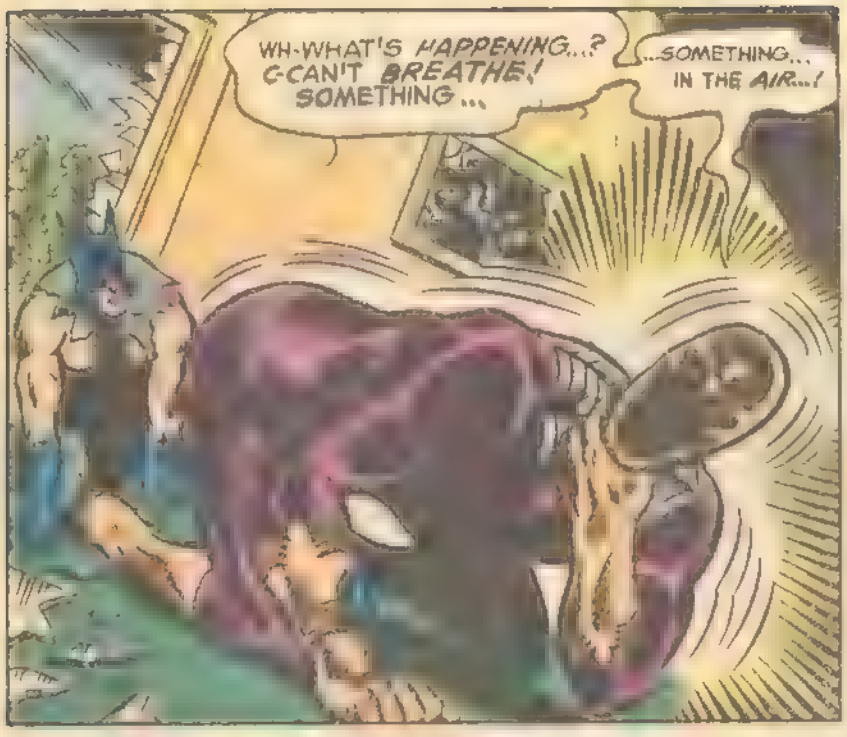

I CAN'T LET YOU DO IT, SPIDER. HARDWICKE MAY BE A LOUSY EXCUSE FOR A MAN--

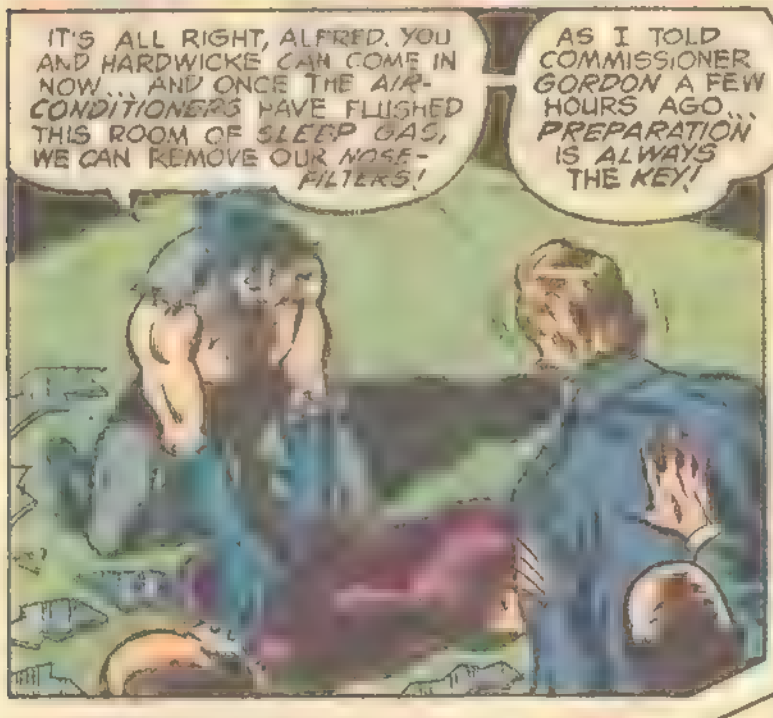

--BUT HE'S STILL A MAN, AND THE LAW SAYS HE MUST BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL! WHAT YOU WANT TO DO ISN'T JUSTICE... IT'S MURDER!
I LEFT YOU FOR DEAD--!
THEN THAT MAKES US EVEN! BRANCHES BROKE MY FALL --A PRIVATE ELEVATOR BROUGHT ME HERE! WHAT SAVED YOUR LIFE, BLACK SPIDER?

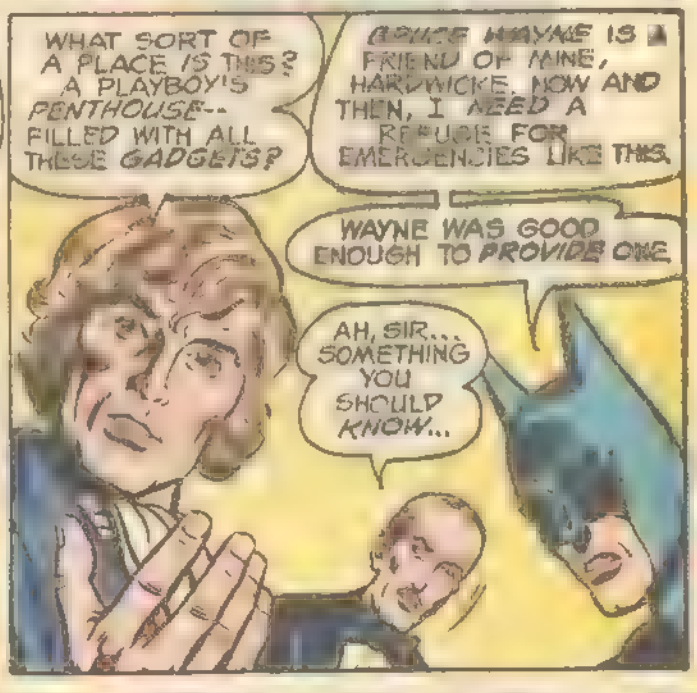

HATE, BATMAN! HATE KEPT ME ALIVE AFTER THAT EXPLOSION ALMOST WASTED ME, HATE MADE ME CRAWL OFF INTO AN ALLEY--
--WHERE I HID, WHILE GORDON'S COPS SEARCHED FOR MY CORPSE!
HATE KEPT ME BREATHING, WHEN EVERY BREATH WAS A MOUTHFUL OF FIRE!

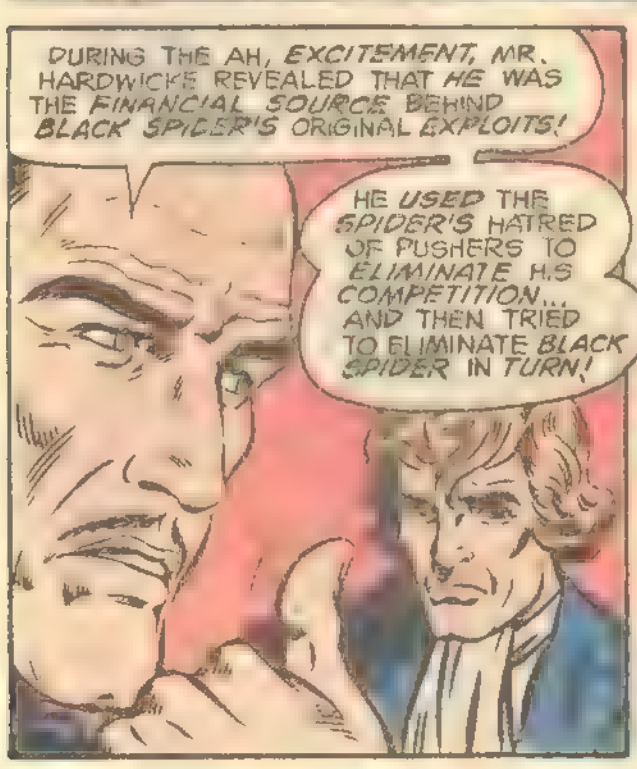

"HATE GAVE ME THE LEGS TO REACH A FREE CLINIC NOT FAR AWAY, WHERE A FRIEND SPENT HIS NIGHTS TRYING TO HEAL FOLKS WHOSE ONLY REAL SICKNESS WAS POVERTY..."
"HATE NURSED ME THROUGH THE MONTHS OF OPERATIONS... AND RECOVERY... AND THERAPY... AND RE-TRAINING..."

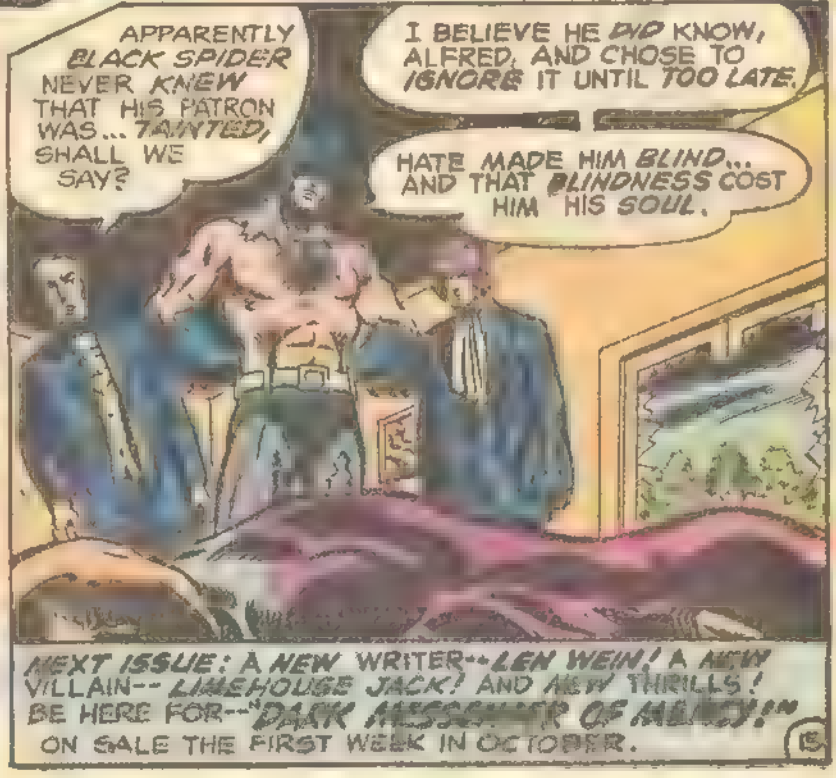
I HATE, BATMAN... FOR THE PUSHERS WHO MADE ME A JUNKIE AND KILLED MY DREAMS... AND FOR THE MAN WHO TRICKED ME AND USED ME...
... AND THEN TRIED TO KILL ME, WITH A BOMB THAT BLEW UP FIVE MINUTES EARLY!
THAT BETTER ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS, DETECTIVE--
--'CAUSE IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER YOU'LL GET!
KCHOW KCHOW
IT ENDS NOW, THE FINAL ASSAULT! LIKE TWO BULLS, THE [illegible]-FIGHTERS LUNGE TOGETHER, LOCKING HORNS--!
ONE MINUTE PASSES IN STRAINING SILENCE, THEN ANOTHER! ONLY THEIR BREATHING CAN BE HEARD, AS THEY STRUGGLE, LUNGS LABORING--!
ABRUPTLY--
WOK
SKIRRASS!
14




IT'S ALL RIGHT, ALFRED. YOU AND HARDWICKE CAN COME IN NOW... AND ONCE THE AIR-CONDITIONERS HAVE FLUSHED THIS ROOM OF SLEEP GAS, WE CAN REMOVE OUR NOSE-FILTERS!
AS I TOLD COMMISSIONER GORDON A FEW HOURS AGO... PREPARATION IS ALWAYS THE KEY!


WHAT SORT OF A PLACE IS THIS? A PLAYBOY'S PENTHOUSE-- FILLED WITH ALL THESE GADGETS?
BRUCE WAYNE IS A FRIEND OF MINE, HARDWICKE. NOW AND THEN, I NEED A REFUGE FOR EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS.
WAYNE WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO PROVIDE ONE.
AH, SIR... SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...


DURING THE AH, EXCITEMENT, MR. HARDWICKE REVEALED THAT HE WAS THE FINANCIAL SOURCE BEHIND BLACK SPIDER'S ORIGINAL EXPLOITS!
HE USED THE SPIDER'S HATRED OF PUSHERS TO ELIMINATE HIS COMPETITION... AND THEN TRIED TO ELIMINATE BLACK SPIDER IN TURN!


APPARENTLY BLACK SPIDER NEVER KNEW THAT HIS PATRON WAS... TAINTED, SHALL WE SAY?
I BELIEVE HE DID KNOW, ALFRED, AND CHOSE TO IGNORE IT UNTIL TOO LATE.
HATE MADE HIM BLIND... AND THAT BLINDNESS COST HIM HIS SOUL.

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--WITH THE INSCRIPTION--
To my darling wife. Love, The Batman
-- WHICH FAILED THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE UNTIL HE CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH...
THE MYSTERY MURDERER OF "MRS. BATMAN"!
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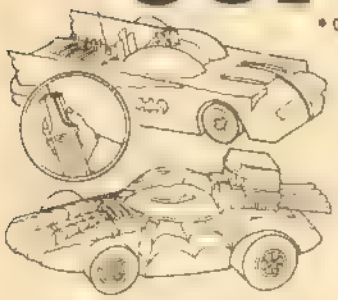

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THESE "X-RAY" PHOTOS I TOOK OF YOU IN THE SILVERSMITH SHOP IN MAINE* ARE JUST A SAMPLE OF THE BATTERY OF EVIDENCE I HOLD--
--WHICH PROVES CONCLUSIVELY, BRUCE WAYNE, THAT--
--YOU ARE THE BATMAN!
*SHOWN LAST ISSUE! --JULIE
ANYONE CAN FAKE PHOTOS LIKE THESE! IF THE REST OF YOUR EVIDENCE IS SO DAMNING, WHY NOT PRODUCE IT?
NO WAY! THAT WOULD GIVE YOU THE ADVANTAGE OVER ME!
THE EVIDENCE IS BURIED WHERE YOU'LL NEVER FIND IT... AND I WON'T REVEAL IT UNLESS YOU INTERFERE WITH MY OPERATIONS!
SO YOU SEE-- EVEN THOUGH I ADMIT MURDERING THAT YOUNG WOMAN, YOU DARE NOT BRING ME IN--FOR IT WOULD RING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON YOUR CAREER!
NOT IF I KILL YOU-- RIGHT HERE AND NOW!
OH, YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT-- YOU'RE NOT THE KILLING KIND!
NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I'LL TAKE THE ELEVATOR DOWN--
AHH--THE ELEVATOR ENTRANCE TO THE BATCAVE! I DEDUCED IT WOULD BE CONCEALED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
ONE MOMENT, SIR, YOU CANNOT GO IN THERE--!
ON THE CONTRARY, I CAN... AND WILL!
FRIGID GAS... NUMBING ME!
WHOSSS-HH!
M-MASTER B-BRUCE, S-STOP HIM!
M-MASTER B-BRUCE--?!?
2

ALFRED'S MOVE GAVE ME A CHANCE TO RACE TO MY BEDROOM --
-- AND THE ALTERNATE ENTRANCE TO THE BATCAVE ELEVATOR!
AND WHILE I CAN'T USE THE ELEVATOR CAR--
--THE CABLE IS ALMOST AS GOOD!
THE BATCAVE! WHAT A SPLENDID SETTING--
--FOR A SHOWDOWN WITH THE BATMAN!
BRAVO, WAYNE! THE SPEED WITH WHICH YOU CHANGED IDENTITIES WOULD BE THE ENVY OF ANY QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST!
YOU'LL FIND MY METHODS FOR DEALING WITH TRESPASSERS EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE--!
YOU PROPOSE TO OVERWHELM ME-- KEEP ME A PRISONER HERE--?
THAT'S A LIFETIME ROLE, BATMAN-- AND I WON'T PLAY IT!

BESIDES, IT WOULD NEVER WORK! IN CASE OF MY PROLONGED ABSENCE, I'VE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS WHERE TO FIND THE BATMAN-WAYNE EVIDENCE!
YOU'RE BLUFFING--
-- AND I'M CALLING IT!
ALFRED'S FRONTAL ATTACK BACKFIRED--
--WHICH IS WHY I'LL USE THIS "UP-AND-OVER" FLIP TO BRING ME DOWN...
..." BEHIND ENEMY LINES"!
IMPRESSIVE MANEUVER, BATMAN...
BUT I'VE SAFEGUARDED MYSELF ON ALL SIDES!
WHOOOSH
SO LONG, BATMAN-- I TRUST OUR FIRST MEETING WILL BE OUR LAST... FOR YOUR SAKE!
CAN'T MOVE A FROZEN MUSCLE TO STOP HIM...
4

SOON AFTER...
THANKS, ALFRED--THE HOT TOWELS AND MASSAGE HAVE NEGATED THE FREEZING GAS'S EFFECTS!
BUT NOT, I TRUST, THE EFFECTS OF THAT BIZARRE VILLAIN, SIR! HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO PURSUE THIS--?
--WITH DIFFICULTY! HE KNOWS WHO I AM... BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHO HE IS!
FORTUNATELY, I DO HAVE TWO CLUES HE LEFT BEHIND --HIS FINGERPRINTS AND HIS VOICEPRINT*-- AS AUTOMATICALLY RECORDED BY THE COMPUTER!
* LIKE FINGERPRINTS, NO TWO VOICEPRINTS ARE ALIKE! --JULIE
BUT WHEN THE FINGERPRINTS ARE LIFTED FOR EXAMINATION...
IS THERE NO END TO THE MAN'S CLEVERNESS? EACH ONE OF HIS FINGERPRINTS IS A MATCH--
--FOR TEN DIFFERENT CRIMINALS-- ALL DEAD!
WHICH LEAVES HIS VOICEPRINT AS OUR ONLY CLUE, SIR...AND A LONG SHOT AT THAT!
NOT NECESSARILY! THERE WAS SOMETHING THEATRICAL ABOUT THE WAY HE SPOKE... AS IF HE HAD HAD VOICE TRAINING!
MY GUESS IS THAT HE'S IN RADIO, TELEVISION OR THE THEATER-- SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN IN GOTHAM LONG ENOUGH TO DO THE NECESSARY RESEARCH ON ME!
"IT WON'T BE EASY--BUT WE'LL HAVE TO RECORD EVERY PROFESSIONAL VOICE IN THE CITY TILL WE COME UP WITH A MATCH!"
HEY, IT'S A QUARTER PAST THE HOUR AT WGCR...
--AND AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS TONIGHT...
TO BE OR NOT TO BE, THAT IS THE QUESTION!
5
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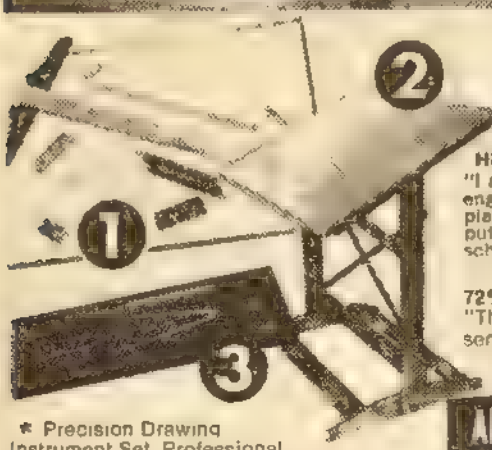

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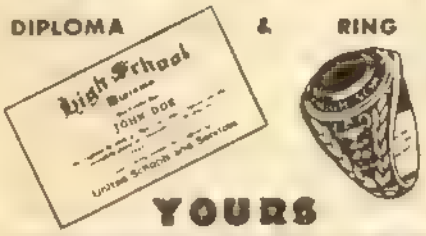

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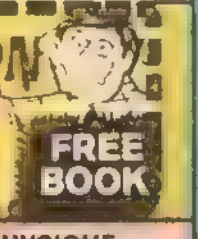

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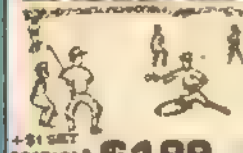

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FINALLY! THERE'S OUR MATCH, ALFRED!
BUT, SIR--THAT'S THE VOICE OF JEFF RICHTER--A BIT ACTOR IN AN OFF-BROADWAY PLAY! HE DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE MASTER CRIMINAL WHO WAS HERE!
--ANY MORE THAN MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE LOOKS LIKE THE BATMAN!
NOW TO FIND OUT JUST WHAT IT IS MR. RICHTER DOESN'T WANT ME TO FIND OUT ABOUT!
EVERY NIGHT RICHTER TAKES ...ANOTHER WALK ...IN ANOTHER DISGUISE... TO A DIFFERENT PART OF THE CITY-- BUT ALWAYS TO A SLUM AREA!
FOR THE NEXT WEEK, THE MASKED MANHUNTER VIRTUALLY IGNORES ALL OTHER CRIME IN GOTHAM! LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, HE HAS BUT ONE OBJECTIVE--
WHAT'S HE INTO--DRUGS? GAMBLING? SPYING?
GOTHAM FREE CLINIC
THEN, AFTER SEVEN BAFFLING "TOURS" OF GOTHAM ..
GOING AFTER HIM AGAIN TONIGHT, MASTER BRUCE?
YOU KNOW IT, ALFRED!
EACH NIGHT TURNS OUT TO BE ANOTHER DEAD END! I'VE CHECKED EVERY FLOP-HOUSE AND FLEABAG THIS GUY'S VISITED--
GOTHAM DAILY
GHETTO VIRUS STRIKES 13 MO
--AND THE ONLY CRIME IN EACH IS THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO LIVE IN THEM!
GOD, IT'S ENOUGH TO TURN MY STOMACH--AND MAKE ME DOUBLE MY EFFORTS TO HELP REBUILD THOSE AREAS WITH WAYNE FOUNDATION FUNDS!
THE STENCH... THE FILTH... THE DISEASE--
GHETTO STRIKES
--THE DISEASE! THAT'S IT--!!
6

LAST NIGHT AT THE STAGE DOOR OF A SKID ROW THEATER...
BATMAN?!?
THE SHOW IS OVER, RICHTER--IF THAT'S REALLY YOUR NAME --AND WHAT YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE!
NOW THAT I KNOW YOUR SCHEME, I'M TAKING YOU IN!
DO THAT-- AND IT'S THE FINAL CURTAIN FOR THE BATMAN, TOO!
IT'S MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAT I STOP YOU... AND THAT DEADLY GHETTO VIRUS YOU'VE BEEN SPREADING ON YOUR NIGHTLY STROLLS!
AND JUST IN CASE YOU INTEND TO PUT THE FREEZE ON ME AGAIN, I'LL TAKE YOU OUT FROM HERE--
--WITHOUT USING ANYTHING FROM MY UTILITY BELT, WHICH HE MUST BE PREPARED FOR!
KLANG!
SO MUCH FOR THAT FEEBLE TACTIC--!
I THOUGHT YOU'D COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER--!
YOU DO YOUR THINKING, RICHTER--AND I'LL DO MINE!
YOUR VIRUS KILLS VICTIM AFTER VICTIM IN THE GHETTO--AND WHEN THE ENTIRE CITY IS ON THE VERGE OF PANIC--
--YOU THREATEN TO SPREAD THE PLAGUE UNLESS YOU ARE PAID OFF-- BIG!!
USING DIFFERENT DISGUISES, YOU FIGURED NOBODY WOULD TRACK YOU DOWN--
--BUT I DID! AND NOW, YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!
KRAKK
WHAT "CRIMES"? KILLING GHETTO-DWELLERS WHO ARE BETTER OFF DEAD ANYWAY?
7

I HAD HOPED MY CACHE OF EVIDENCE WOULD STOP YOU-- BUT SINCE IT DIDN'T, YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE... A VICTIM OF THE GHETTO PLAGUE!
JUST AS I DEDUCED-- A CANE, IN A VARIETY OF SHAPES, WAS HIS METHOD OF SPREADING THE DISEASE!
WHOOSH
THIS TRASH-CAN LID WILL STOP ANY DART--AND MY NOSE-FILTERS WILL--
--EH?!?
NO... NO! IT HIT ME--!
HE'S DYING... AND THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE HIM!
THE GHETTO VIRUS HAS CLAIMED ITS FINAL VICTIM!
LATER...
THE MAN WAS SMART, ALFRED-- BUT HE OUTSMARTED HIMSELF! IF HE HADN'T TRIED TO CHALLENGE ME, HE MIGHT HAVE PULLED OFF HIS HORRIBLE SCHEME!
CASE CLOSED!
NOT QUITE, SIR! THERE REMAINS HIS HIDDEN EVIDENCE! IF IT EVER COMES TO LIGHT --
IT WON'T, ALFRED! I FIGURED OUT WHERE THE DEVILISHLY CLEVER RICHTER WOULD HIDE THAT INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE...
...AND FOUND IT IN THE GRAVE OF JANE DOE--WHERE IT SHALL REMAIN BURIED FOREVER!
THERE IS ONE ELEMENT OF THE CASE THAT DOES REMAIN UNSOLVED--
--THE IDENTITY OF THE UNKNOWN VICTIM, "MRS. BATMAN"!
THE END

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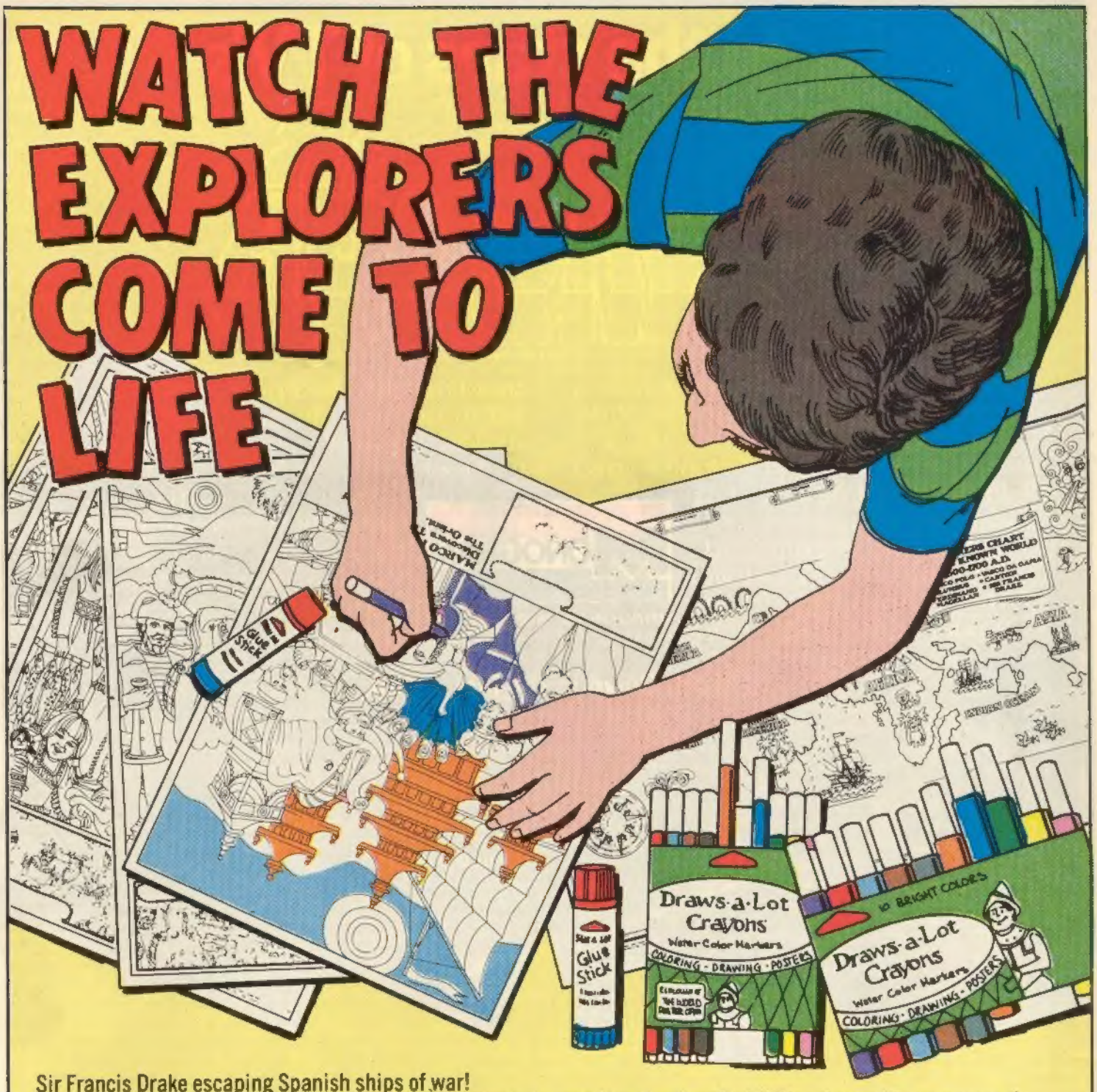

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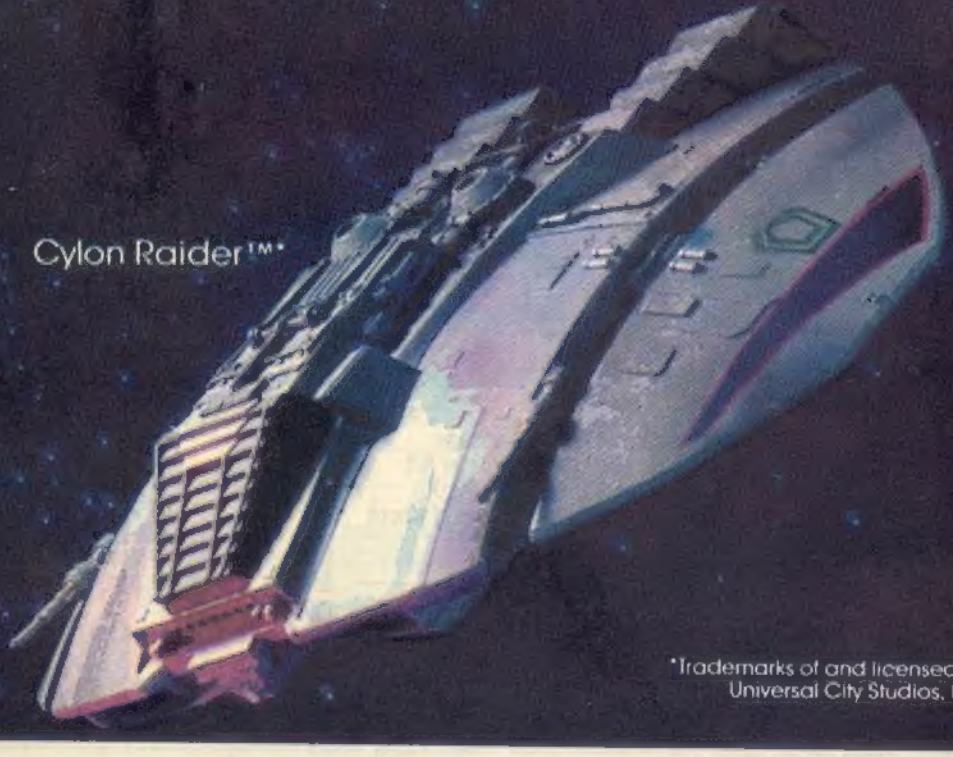

Cylon Raider™*

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